

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9104

INFO AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PO, MZ, AO

SUBJ: PORTUGUESE/MOZAMBIQUE AIRLINE ACCORD

1. ON NOVEMBER 3 IN LISBON CDR. JOSE GOMES MOTA, PRESIDENT OF PORTUGUESE AIRLINE TAP, AND CDR. JOSE BACELAR, SUBDIRECTOR OF MOZAMBIQUE AIRLINE DETA, SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COMPANIES. ACCORD REGULATES EXISTING EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND, ACCORDING TO GOMES MOTA, OPENS UP "NEW FIELDS" OF COOPERATION. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF TAP TECHNICIANS ALREADY ARE IN MOZAMBIQUE ASSISTING DETA, AND ALMOST ALL OF DETA'S SPECIALIZED PERSONNEL ARE TRAINED BY TAP.

2. DURING CEREMONY TAP ALSO SIGNED DECLARATION OF "INTENT" FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WITH COMPANHIA MOCAMBICANA DE AVIACAO GERAL (COMAG). STILL BEING FORMED, COMAG IS TO COMBINE ALL EXISTING GENERAL AVIATION FIRMS IN MOZAMBIQUE INTO ONE MIXED PUBLIC/PRIVATE COMPANY. IT WILL COMPLEMENT DETA FOR INTERNAL GENERAL AVIATION AND CARGO TRAFFIC. COMAG RECENTLY ACQUIRED SEVEN NORD-ATLAS TRANSPORTS FROM THE PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE.

3. A TAP OFFICIAL CONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH DETA HAS REMAINED AT HIGH LEVEL, IN UNCLASSIFIED

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GOOD MEASURE BECAUSE THE LATTER HAS VERY CONCRETE PLANS

FOR ITS OPERATIONS AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. LEVEL OF SUCH
INTERCHANGE HAS BEEN MUCH LOWER WITH ANGOLAN AIRLINE TAAG,
DUE TO THAT COMPANY'S UNCERTAIN SITUATION. IN CONTRAST,
OPERATIONAL COOPERATION HAS BEEN MORE HARMONIOUS WITH TAAG,
AS TAP CONTINUED TO FLY INTO LUANDA EVEN WHILE ITS REGULAR
FLIGHTS TO MOZAMBIQUE WERE SUSPENDED.
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